



What Parents Won't Know if the Student Success Act Passes

Committee Republicans claim that the **Student Success Act** includes accountability by creating transparency on student performance for parents and communities. In reality, there is less transparency on student performance and on how federal funds are spent than in current law. Transparency is meaningless if parents and families aren't empowered with meaningful, high-quality data.

Simply put, claims of transparency won't help a student learn, only real transparency will. The Republican bill shortchanges our nation's students, parents, and communities. Under the Republican bill, parents and families won't have access to important data and decision-making regarding:

Student Performance

- The Republican bill requires that states measure student achievement based on performance on annual reading and math assessments and once-per-grade-span science assessments that are aligned with academic standards set by the state.
- However, what the standards will mean for students, such as preparedness for college or careers, is left to states. States do not have to report what the standards are tied to nor do they have to be validated. In short, no state is required to set college- and career-ready standards for all students.
- Language on assessments is vague and does not support quality assessments. States would no longer have to differentiate student performance on the assessment, leaving parents in the dark as to whether their children are achieving or progressing on grade level.
- The Republican bill allows any number of students with disabilities to be given alternative assessments tied to alternate achievement standards. Parents won't understand the full consequences of these assessments, including that a decision made in 3rd grade may prevent their child from receiving a regular diploma.
- The Republican bill does not require separate reporting on alternative assessments. This means that a school can report that 100 percent of students are proficient, but without any indication of whether those students were held to lower standards and tested using alternative tests.

- The Republican bill allows multiple measures to be used for accountability, without any parameters or requirements on even consistent use. States could weight any number of indicators, including simple compliance measures such as getting the district plan in on-time, higher than a student's academic achievement and preparedness for college and careers.
- Under the Republican bill, a parent may know if a school is satisfying state accountability requirements, but they will have no idea if the school is actually held accountable for their child learning or their preparation for college and the workforce when they graduate.
- The Republican bill requires reporting of graduation rates, but graduation rates are not required as a part of the accountability system – Not only will schools not be held accountable for graduating students, parents won't know what the reported rate even means.
- The Republican bill even lowers the requirements for reporting from current law. States and districts are no longer required to report on academic achievement based on migrant status or gender. There is no explanation as to why this information is no longer relevant to parents and communities.

Funding

- The Republican bill removes all maintenance of effort requirements for states and districts. MOE requires that states and districts maintain 90 percent of their funding for public education from the previous year. Without this requirement, parents and communities will not know when state and district funding is pulled from their child's school, or for what reason.
- The Republican bill makes Title I a block grant by moving current law programs for disadvantaged students, migrant students, neglected and delinquent students, English Language Learners, and programs for rural populations, and Indian education into one title.
- Within the Republican bill, funds can be moved across programs with no protections for equity of services for underserved student populations. The bill allows states and districts to siphon funds from the very populations that drive certain ESEA funding allocations and that the law intended to serve.
- States and districts do not have to tell parents or the community that these funds are being moved, or why they should be moved. Districts could decide that a school in one part of town needs new computers and take funding previously dedicated to helping an English Language Learner read.